



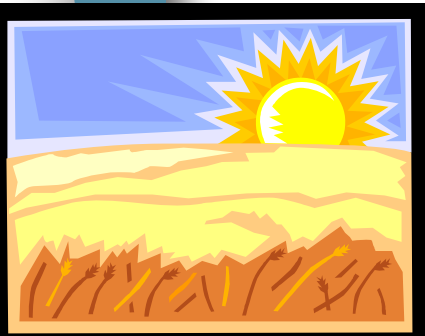
Montana Drought Advisory Committee



NASS, USDA, Montana
Field Office

Peggy Stringer
Director

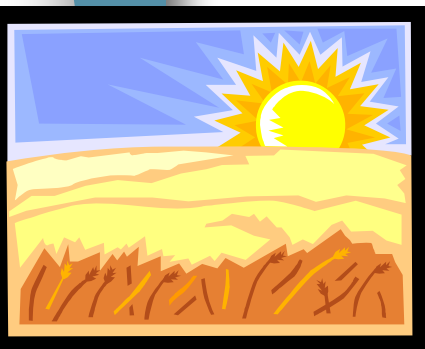
May 29, 2007



Moisture improves winter wheat



May 29, 2007



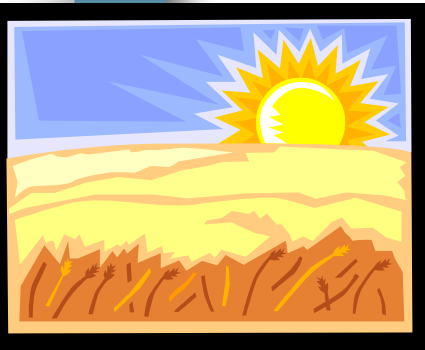
Winter Wheat May 1 Production Forecast

Planted Acreage

- 2.2 million acres.
- 250,000 acres more than previous year.

Expected Harvested Acreage

- 2.15 million acres.
- 230,000 more than last year.



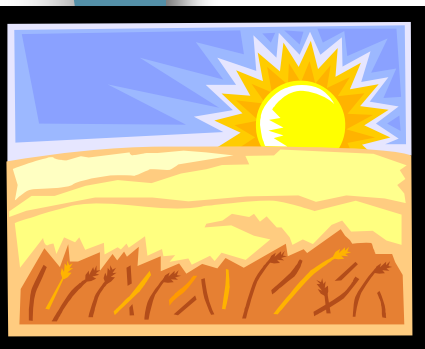
Winter Wheat May 1 Production Forecast

Total Montana Production

- 88.2 million bu.
- Up 5.6 million bu from 2006

Yield

- 2007 yield forecast 41 bu per ac.
 - Down 2 bu from 2006 final yield.



Winter Wheat May 1 Production Forecast

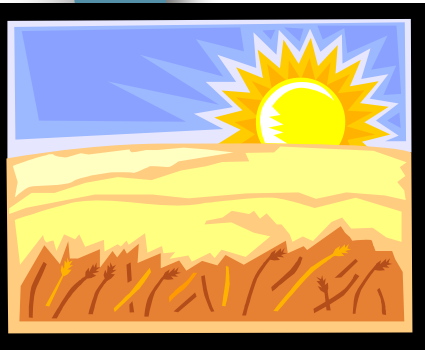
May 1st is too early.

We will know more on June 11 when

- ❑ June 1st Yield Forecast is released

and

- ❑ June 29th when June Acreage released.



Hay Stocks May 1

760,000 tons

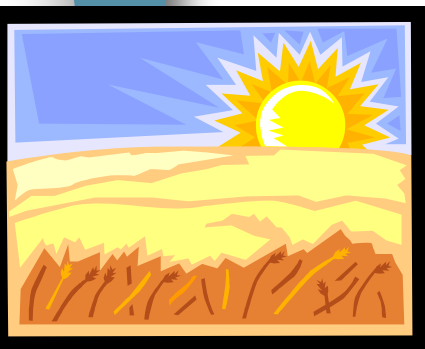
48% less than last year.

Hay production in 2006:

4.32 million tons


26% lower than the record high 2005
production.

May 29, 2007

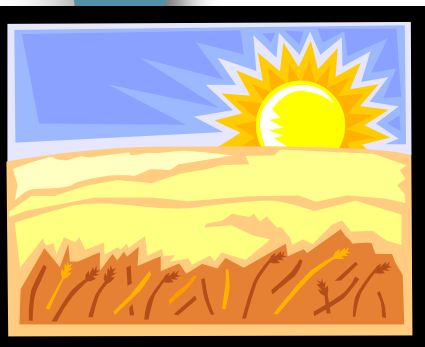


Crop Weather Report

Week Ending May 20, 2007

 Golden Triangle (North Central) Area mostly above normal precipitation since April 1 and has received above normal precipitation since Oct.1, 2006

 This area accounts for over half of Montana's winter wheat production.



Crop Weather Report

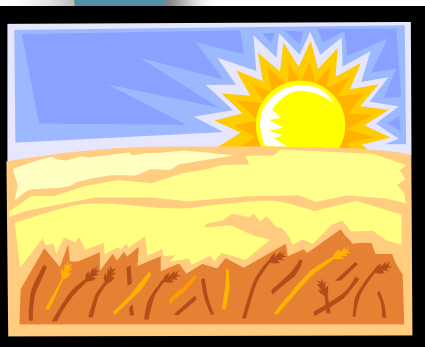
Week Ending May 20, 2007

Topsoil Moisture

Ahead of Last year & 5-yr Avg.

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	19%	9%	52%	41%
Adequate	66%	74%	45%	54%
Surplus	15%	17%	3%	5%

May 29, 2007



Crop Weather Report

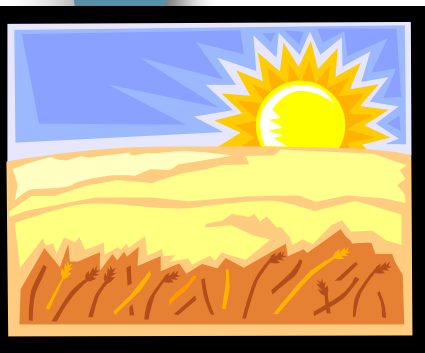
Week Ending May 20, 2007

Subsoil Moisture

Ahead of Last Year & 5-yr Avg.

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	33%	25%	47%	60%
Adequate	58%	66%	51%	39%
Surplus	9%	9%	2%	1%

May 29, 2007

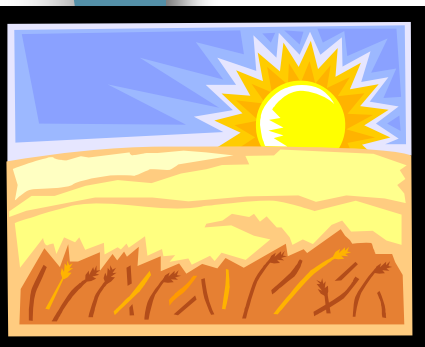


Crop Weather Report

Week Ending May 20, 2007

- Winter wheat crop in mostly good to excellent condition.
- Winter wheat crop condition significantly ahead of last year and the 5-yr average.

May 29, 2007

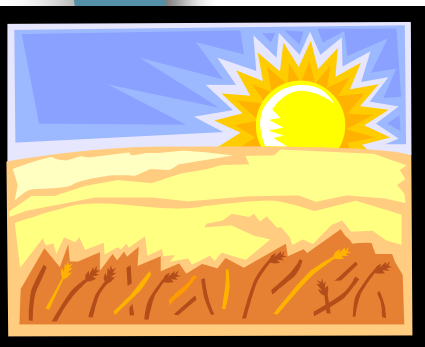


Winter Wheat Crop Condition

Nearly the same as last week; much better than last year & 5-yr avg.

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	0%	3%	21%	43%	33%
Last week	1%	3%	21%	46%	29%
Last year	1%	10%	35%	40%	14%
5-yr Avg	8%	16%	31%	36%	9%

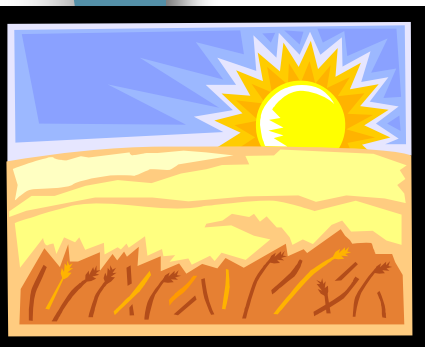
May 29, 2007



Crop Progress Percent

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Spring wheat				
seeded	91%	84%	89%	85%
emerged	59%	33%	44%	49%
Barley				
seeded	94%	85%	92%	88%
emerged	67%	48%	59%	57%

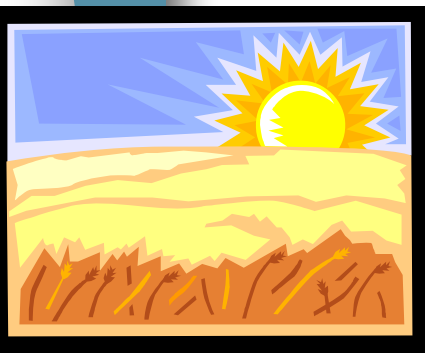
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Crop Progress Percent

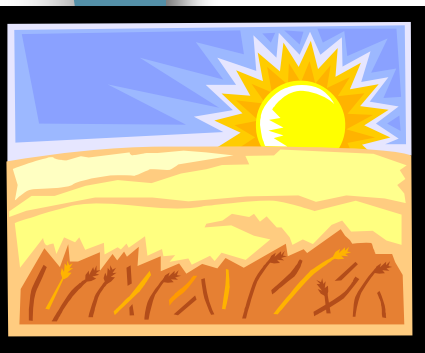
	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Sugar Beets emerged	84%	38%	72%	69%
Corn planted	84%	65%	69%	68%
emerged	53%	4%	18%	25%

May 29, 2007



Livestock

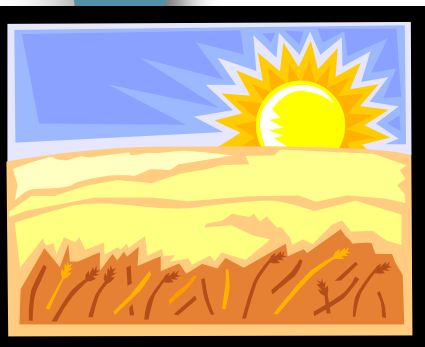
- Range and pasture feed conditions continue to improve
- Most pastureland open for grazing
- Only 16% of cattle and 15% of sheep receiving supplemental feed



Livestock Grazing

- Pasture and range conditions are better than last year & 5-year average.
- Conditions this week mostly good to excellent.
- 62% of the cattle and 58% of the sheep have moved to summer ranges.

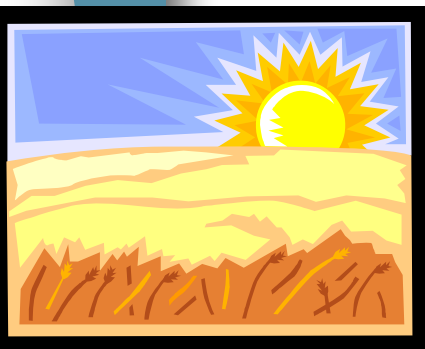
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Range & Pasture Condition Percent

	Very poor- poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	7%	27%	48%	18%
Last week	7%	34%	49%	10%
Last year	6%	36%	48%	10%
5-yr Avg	31%	33%	30%	6%

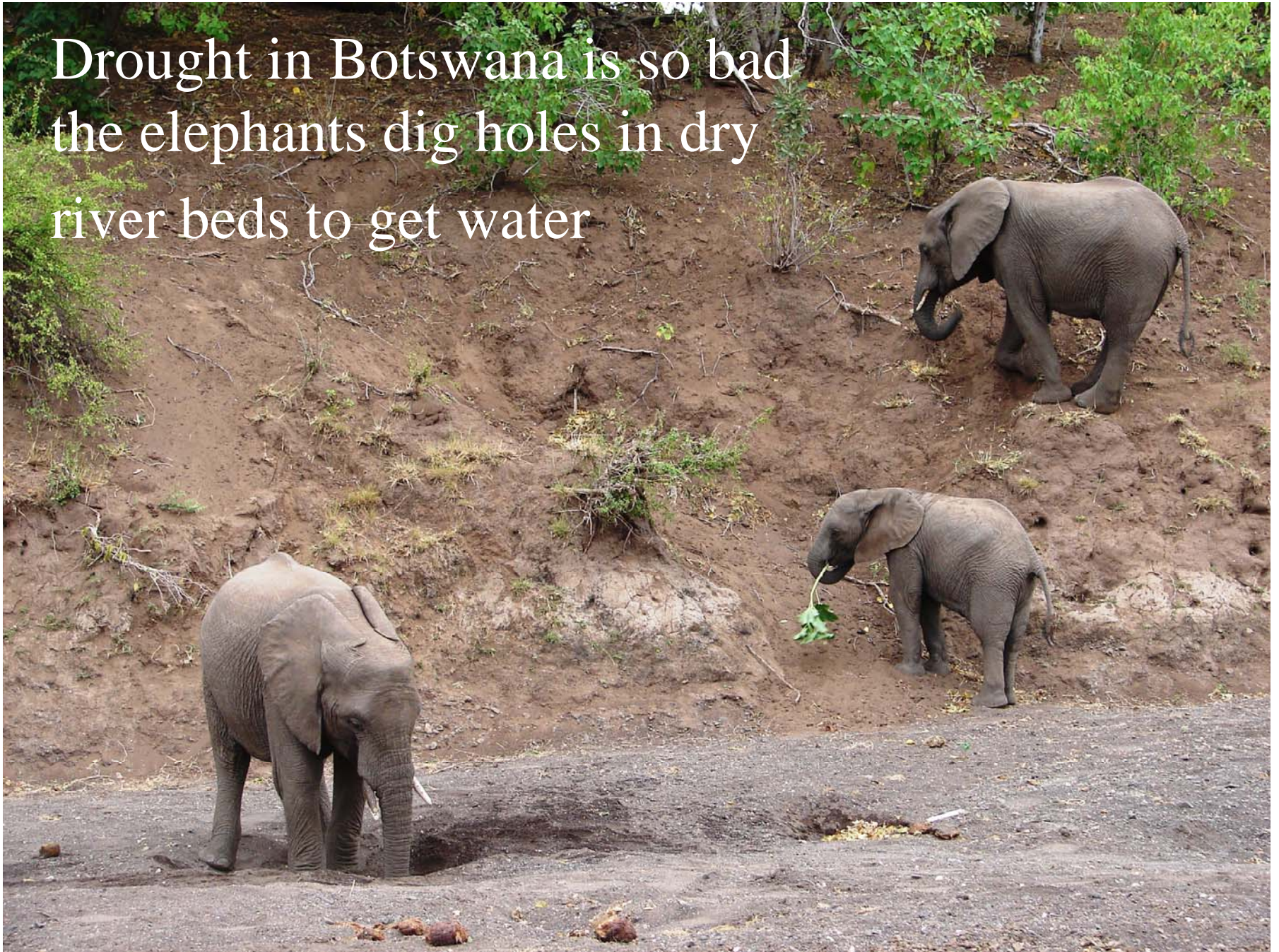
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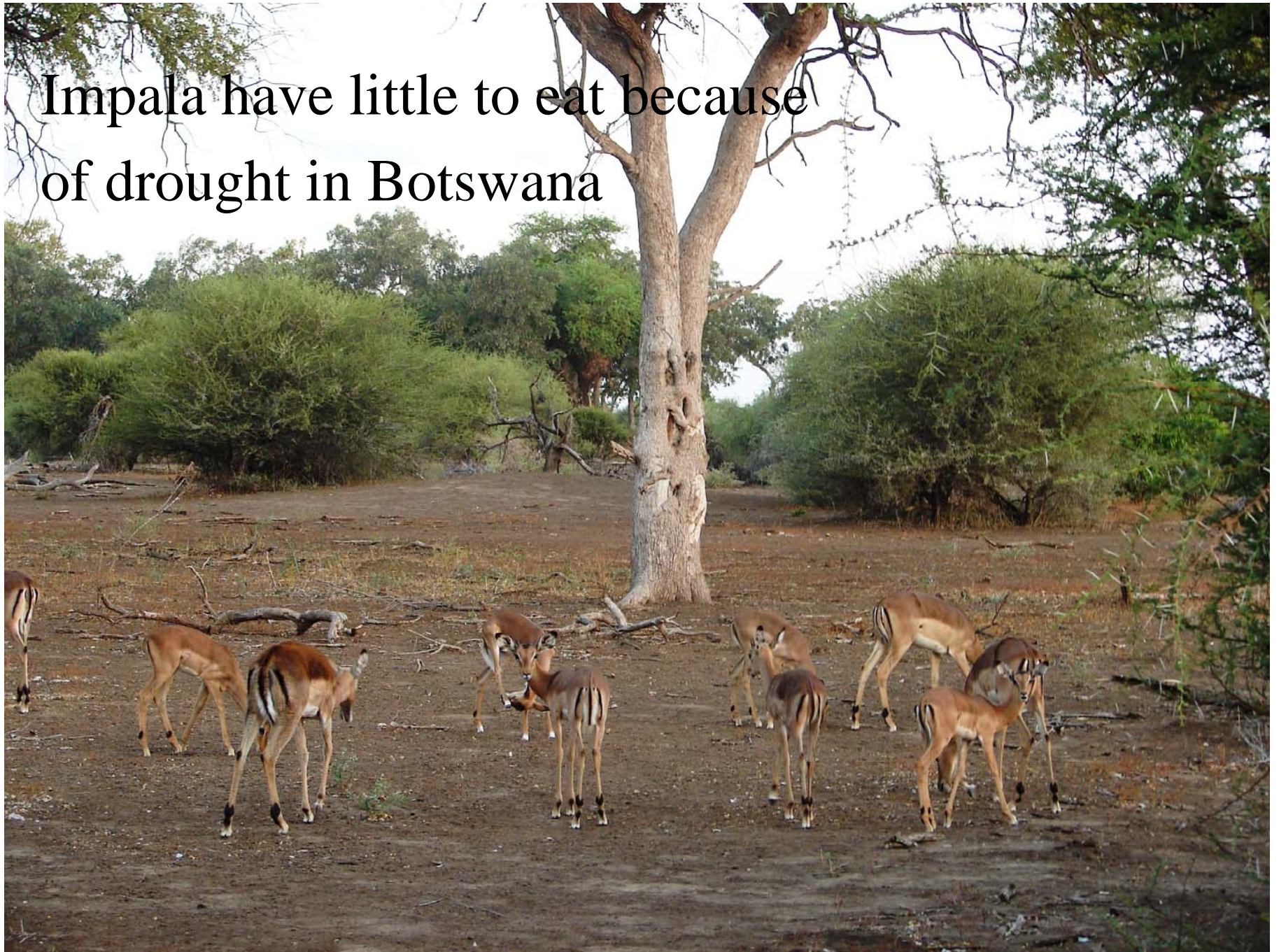
Summary

- Topsoil and subsoil moisture decreased a little from previous week, but still look promising.
- Overall crops look good for this time of year.
- Winter wheat is off to a great start.
- Future crop conditions depend on getting more moisture.

Drought in Botswana is so bad
the elephants dig holes in dry
river beds to get water



Impala have little to eat because
of drought in Botswana



Drought is not
as bad in South
Africa

